

ABSTRACT

Magnetically or optically detectable elements are arranged on a substrate so as to encode information to be stored. An information carrier comprises a plurality of individual detectable elements supported by, or incorporated in, a substrate wherein the spacing between the elements serves to encode the information and is such that it can be represented as $A + mG$, wherein A is a first fixed value, m is an integer (which may be zero) and G is a second fixed value, characterized in that the values of the integer m , are selected to be integers derived by a predetermined mathematical sequence or a random sequence generator.